OBITUARY

In memory of József Fülöp (1927–1994)

József Fülöp was one of the greatest personalities of Hungarian geology during the last 35 years. He was an eminent geologist whose main field of interest was the study of Mesozoic formations. After finishing his studies at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, he worked in the Geological Department of the University as an assistant while he prepared his thesis. From 1958 to 1969 he was the Director of the Hungarian Geological Institute and from 1968 to 1984 he was the President of the Hungarian Geological Survey, the main coordinating office of earth sciences in Hungary. From 1984 to 1990 he was the rector of the Eötvös University. From 1970 on he was a Professor in the Geological Department and in 1984 he established the Geological Department Research Team of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

In addition to his large-scale scientific and pedagogical activities he had an active role in research organization and sponsoring, using the considerable financial sources at his disposal to promote researches in several spheres.

At the beginning of the sixties when the Sümeg-Mogyorósdomb prehistoric flint mine was discovered by cutting a geological section across the site his interest was attracted by prehistoric flint mining, urging him to make further studies in lithic raw material exploitation and use in prehistory as well as in geoarchaeology in general. As an expert who has made studies on the geology of the Sümeg area he helped the famous archaeologist, László Vértés in his work. In the seventies he continued surveying the Sümeg mine and later organized an excavation there. He also organized the conservation and presentation of the excavated area. He made excavations also
in the Tata-Kálváriadomb prehistoric flint mine and he published the results of this excavation in an excellent paper of interdisciplinary character. As a result of his efforts both the Mogorósdomb at Sümeg and the Kálváriadomb at Tata were declared Nature Conservation Areas where the geological and archaeological attractions were demonstrated in open-air museums. At Sümeg he established also a Training Base for Fieldwork for geologists and students. This Base housed not only conferences and meetings in geology but it was open also for extension trainings for archaeologists. In 1986 an International Conference on Prehistoric Flint Mining and Lithic Raw Material Identification was held there. The conference and its participants had enjoyed Dr. Fülöp’s generous support in every respect. He always encouraged and helped archaeological and geoarchaeological researches not only within the Hungarian Geological Institute where two archaeologists worked for years as his colleagues studying lithic raw material exploitation and use, but helped archaeologists working in other institutes and museums too, and he had friendly relations with several foreign experts — first of all with those who studied prehistoric flint mining — helping them to study Hungarian sites. In this way he participated in the
preparations for the International Flint Symposia held at Maastricht in 1975 and 1979 and of the Bochum Symposium on prehistoric flint mining in 1980.

One of the aims of Dr. Fülöp was to write, together with his collaborators, a detailed Geology of Hungary in several volumes. Unfortunately only three volumes of this large-scale work have been completed. The first volume, the history of the use of mineral raw materials in Hungary, containing a lavishly illustrated and impressive overall survey of the exploitation and use of all the mineral raw materials used by man in Hungary from the most ancient times to the present, also reflects his interdisciplinary interest.

His background as a geologist was a great advantage in his archaeological studies. His love for his profession and his respect for the relics of the past were a great help for archaeological and geoarchaeological sciences both in Hungary and abroad. His death is a grievous loss in this respect.
A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS OF JÓZSEF FÜLÖP AND HIS PAPERS WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS


Erzsebet Bácskay